

### **Training Core Leader/SPAN Committee Teleconference Notes:**

Thursday, May 26th from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

- **Action Item:** Dr. Sheahan will send Danielle a copy of his survey that he has new trainees complete.
- **Action Item:** SPAN members and Training Core Leaders, please join the Facebook account and distribute FB address to other trainees for them to join.
- **Action Item:** Training Core Leaders, please send Danielle any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, job announcements, etc).
- **Action Item:** Training Core Leaders, please select one graduate student and post-doc to serve on the SPAN committee. Members of the SPAN committee will receive pertinent and important information about the training interests from NIEHS staff, and will serve as trainee representatives for their Center. Members will typically participate in phone calls with NIEHS staff and Training Core Leaders as well as trainee activities at the SRP annual meeting.
- Introductions: Univ. of Kentucky (Jennifer Moore, Katryn Eske, Brad Newsome); UC-Davis (Karen Wagner, Arzu Ulu) Univ. of Iowa (Gabriele Ludwig; Xin Hu); Dartmouth (Courtney Kozul Horvath); Northeastern (Tom Sheahan, Naji Kasem, Luis Rivera, Kristin Hix); NIEHS (Danielle Carlin, Heather Henry, Beth Anderson)
- SRP Training Website – (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/index.cfm>)
- SPAN Website – (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/network/index.cfm>)
- KC Donnelly Externship:  
(<http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/1/Training/KC%20Donnelly%20Externship%20Final%202-16-11.pdf>)
- SRP Trainee Webinar series:  
(<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training8.cfm>).
- Annual Meeting Update (Jennifer Moore to provide this update)
  - October 23-26, 2011; Venue: **Hilton Lexington Downtown**; Location: Lexington, KY
  - Website – **under construction**
  - Agenda – **under construction; Annual Meeting Planning Committee has a teleconference to discuss on 5/27/11**
  - Abstract submission process – **deadline will be around August 1, 2011; Gabriele Ludwig asked if the deadline could be extended to later in August; Jennifer said that this would be considered.**
  - Room reservations for hotels – **hotel room costs will be \$116/night (double or single); Jennifer will provide the phone number and block of rooms in the next few weeks.**
  - Katryn Eske and Brad Newsome have been selected to be the SPAN trainee representatives at the SRP annual meeting in Kentucky. Katryn and Brad will serve as a points of contact for other trainees for questions pertaining to the trainee events scheduled at the meeting. They will also be highlighted in the e-posted notes newsletter. Both Brad and Katryn will be available beginning on Saturday, Oct. 22, and throughout the conference.

- Maggie Murphy will also be a “Trainee Point of Contact”; Maggie, Katryn, and Brad will have a special name tag so that other trainees can connect with them about the trainee activities at the SRP Annual Meeting. Danielle asked that Katryn, Brad, and Maggie introduce themselves on the phone call. Katryn is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student studying inflammation and nutrition; Brad is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student studying environmental chemistry and toxic materials related to the Center’s grant; Maggie is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student interested in exercise and nutrition on cardiovascular health and environmental exposures.
  - Training Core Leader Lunch with Danielle Carlin and Heather Henry
    - This will be a separate lunch from the “Trainee and PI lunch” at the Annual Meeting; the Training Core Leader Lunch will be an opportunity for the Training Core Leaders to meet and greet each other, discuss any topics with NIEHS staff, participate in a SPAN Facebook Page tutorial, and discuss the “New Trainee Packet of Information” that NIEHS would like to give all the Training Core Leaders. Dr. Tom Sheahan told the group about a survey that he gives out to his trainees to gather their perspective before and after working in an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research environment such as an SRP-funded Center. He would like to know if we can incorporate this concept into the “package of materials” that SRP staff will make available to the trainees. Action Item: Dr. Sheahan will send Danielle a copy of this survey.
  - A handout and poster about SPAN available at Annual SRP – **Danielle will put this together.**
- Trainee Events:
  - IceBreaker Event – **evening of October 23<sup>rd</sup>**; the IceBreaker event will follow a **discussion panel for trainees; discussion panel will be “Unique Career Opportunities in Environmental Science”**
  - Trainee Social Event: trainees can meet at a local restaurant where trainees can meet, greet, and eat. SPAN trainee representative will host dinner – **the dinners will consist of trainees, no PIs**
  - Poster sessions and poster guidelines: under development
  - Trainee lunch with PIs
    - It has been previously suggested that PIs need to be encouraged to attend the Trainee/PI lunch. A sign-up list will be provided during registration. An announcement will also be made during the meeting to encourage the PIs to attend.
  - Stickers will be made available to place on SPAN committee members name tags to help to promote SPAN.
  - **“Kentucky Experience Events” will also occur before or after this meeting (e.g., a visit to Keeneland racetrack).**
- Other items for discussion...
  - Facebook SPAN page: (Justin Crane) ([www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN](http://www.facebook.com/SRPSPAN))

- The FB page is a tool to provide updates about NIEHS SRP activities applicable to trainees (i.e., undergrads, grads, and post-docs); these include job postings and all upcoming events; updates about annual meeting will be provided by the University of Kentucky group. We have 51 people that like us on Facebook and 10 active users; Heather Henry asked if there is a way to link Twitter to Facebook, and Justin said there is a way to do this; it was suggested that more regular updates about SRP be placed on the Facebook page (in the past, updates have been very sporadic) and this might increase the following of SRP on Facebook; a training session will be offered to the Training Core Leaders at the Annual Meeting to discuss how Facebook might be used as a tool for Training Cores to communicate with one another.
- **Action Item:** SPAN members and Training Core Leaders, please join the Facebook account and distribute FB address to other trainees for them to join.
- Updated list of SPAN members and all SRP trainees/alumni (Justin Crane)
  - **Until CareerTrac is in place, our contractor will continue sending out an excel spreadsheet containing all trainee data to the Center Directors. The Center Directors will then provide updates to this spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is sent to the Center Directors in October every year.**
- Career Trac 3
  - **This is a database that has been initiated by NIH and will be used by SRP; it will be a more comprehensive tool to collect information about our trainees as they progress through their educational and professional careers; it will also help NIEHS SRP staff evaluate its ability to ensure that adequate training opportunities are made available to all SRP trainees. It will potentially be debuted at the 2012 SRP annual meeting. In the past, the contractor to NIEHS has been collecting this data in a spreadsheet format (see above); CareerTrac will eventually replace this need to collect trainee data using a spreadsheet format.**
- NIEHS Strategic Plan (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/od/strategicplan/index.cfm>) – **please visit this website for more information about the NIEHS Strategic Plan process**
- Determining if and how mentors tell trainees about SRP and SPAN when they are either interviewing or new to the position.
  - **SRP staff will develop materials (a handout/pamphlet) for new trainees – these materials will be made available to the Training Core Leaders and trainees at the 2011 SRP Annual Meeting in Kentucky. SRP Staff would appreciate feedback from both Training Core Leaders and trainees about these materials to ensure that they are comprehensive to new trainees entering the program.**
- List of the Training Core Leaders now on SRP website (<http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/training/index.cfm>) – **Please note the website has been added to the notes.**
- Compiling information from Training Core Leaders about events that can be viewed by our other SRP-funded center and RO1 trainees.
  - **Heather Henry mentioned that RO1 trainees should be included on future SPAN teleconferences.**

- Information that is sent from our Training Core Leaders, Trainees, and Alumni is typically posted on the SRP SPAN website (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training4.cfm>).
- Action Item: Training Core Leaders, please send Danielle any news items of interest to trainees (e.g., trainee success stories, job announcements, etc).
- Future Teleconferences: **The next conference calls with Training Core Leaders/SPAN Committee members in late July, 2011/early August, 2011. The next teleconference will consist of an update of the SRP Annual Meeting (Jennifer Moore will provide this update).**
- Updates from Training Core Leaders and Trainees
  - Dr. Sheanan (Northeastern) mentioned that his group has been hosting webinars highlighting their trainees and hopes to get these webinars available for other SRP Centers to view. They have also been having “skill builder town hall” meetings with the PROTECT group from Puerto Rico.
  - Dr. Kristin Hix (Northeastern) said that they are obtaining names of secondary mentors for their trainees; their trainees also have the opportunity to obtain ethics certification; they also have been maintaining a “trainee board” which gather opinions from the trainees about the events held at their Center; they have also been working on an orientation packet.
  - Dr. Gabriele Ludwig (Univ. of Iowa) has been working on a webinar format (Illuminate) for her trainees to use to present their research and activities. She also mentioned that trainees have the opportunity to take academic courses that are “outside” of their current research interests (one course is mandatory), and the trainees enjoy these courses very much. She also holds monthly meetings for the trainees to present their projects and they get the experience of giving seminars and discussing their research and activities; each trainee is also expected to host one seminar speaker per year, which provides the trainee with the opportunity to network with more established investigators; Dr. Ludwig also said that employers are highly interested in the trainee’s experience and appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of SRP-funded research. They are also enthusiastic about the types of community engagement activities that some trainees are conducting.
- Green Technology Entrepreneurship Academy, June 13-17, 2011 at UC Davis (contact James Sanborn; [jrsanborn@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrsanborn@ucdavis.edu))
  - Applications were due May 13, but there may be time to still talk with the organizers to get more trainees to attend this event; Beth Anderson mentioned that she attended this Academy a few years ago, and found that this is an excellent opportunity for trainees; trainees can learn about commercialization of their research and these meetings have ranged from a focus to biomedical to non-biomedical projects; there is some funding available for trainees to attend the academy; please see the e-mail sent by Danielle Carlin on May 5<sup>th</sup> (Subject Line: Green Technology Entrepreneurship Academy, June 13-17, 2011 at UCSD) for more information. Beth also said that this Academy Workshop should be a yearly event, so if you missed it, you can apply next year.
- Highlighting SRP Trainees on SRP Website

- SRP Staff would like to highlight “success stories” from students, post-docs, and alumni on their website (<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/srp/training/training5.cfm>). The highlights would be in addition to the highlights placed on the SRP e-Posted Notes. Training Core Leaders should send their success stories to Justin Crane ([cranej2@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:cranej2@niehs.nih.gov)). However, Training Core Leaders are welcome to send them to Danielle Carlin ([danielle.carlin@nih.gov](mailto:danielle.carlin@nih.gov)) or Heather Henry ([henryh@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:henryh@niehs.nih.gov)).
- Gabriele Ludwig mentioned that she is aware of a faculty position that is available and she can send that announcement to Justin, Danielle, or Heather and it will be posted to the SPAN announcements page (<http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/srp/training/training4.cfm>)